AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Tryals, Examination and Condemnation,

OF

Elinor Shaw,

AND

Mary Phillip's

(Two notorious Witches)

At *Northampton* Assizes, on *Wednesday* the 7th of *March* 1705. for Bewitching a Woman, and two Children, Tormenting them in a sad and lamentable manner till they Dyed.

With an Account of their strange Confessions, about their Familiarity with the Devil, and how they made a wicked Contract with him, to be revenged on several Persons, by Bewitching their Cattel to Death, &c. and several other strange and amazing Particulars, Viz.

London, Printed for *F. Thorn*, near *Fleet street*.

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ON *Wedneſday* the 7th of this Inſtant *March* 1705, being the ſecond day of the Aſſizes held at *Northampton*: One *Elinor Shaw*, and *Mary Phillips*, (two notorious Witches) were brought into Court, and there Arraign'd at the Bar, upon ſeveral Indictments of Witchcraft; particularly for

for Bewitching and Tormenting in a Diabolical manner, the Wife of *Robert Wise* of *Benefield*, in the ſaid County till ſhe Dyed, as alſo for Killing by Witchcraft, and wicked Facination, one *Elizabeth Gorham* of *Glapthorn*, a Child of about four Years of Age in the ſaid County of *Northampton*; as alſo for Bewitching to Death, one *Charles Ireland* of *Southwick* in the ſaid County; to which Indictment the two ſaid Priſoners pleaded not Guilty, and thereupon put themſelves upon their Tryals as followeth.

The firſt Evidence againſt them, was one Widdow *Peak*, who depoſed, that ſhe with two other Women, undertook to watch the ſaid Priſoners after they had been Apprehended, and that about Midnight, there appeared in the Room a little white Thing, about the bigneſs of a Cat, which ſat upon *Mary Phillip*'s Lap, at which time ſhe heard her, the ſaid *Mary Phillips* ſay, then pointing to *Elinor Shaw*, that ſhe was the Witch that Kill'd Mrs. *Wiſe*, by Roaſting her Effiges in Wax, ſticking it full of Pinns, and till it was all waſted, and all this ſhe affirm'd was done the ſame Night Mrs. *Wiſe* Dyed in a ſad and languiſhing Condition. Mrs. *Ewans*, depoſed, that when Mrs. *Wiſe* firſt was taken Ill, that ſhe ſaw *Elinor Shaw* look out at the Window, (it being oppoſite to her Houſe) at which time, ſhe heard her ſay, *I have done*

done her Buſineſs now I am ſure; this Night I'll ſend the old Devil a New Years Gift; (next day being New-years Day) and well knowing this *Elinor Shaw* to be a reputed Witch, was ſo much concern'd at her Words, that ſhe went then to ſee how Mrs. *Wiſe* did, where ſhe found her Tormented with ſuch Pains, as exceeding thoſe of a Woman in Travel, which encreaſed to ſuch a terrible Degree, that ſhe Expired about 12 of the Clock, to the great amazment of all her Neighbours.

Another Evidence made Oath, that *Elinor Shaw* and *Mary Phillips*, being one Day at her Houſe, they told her ſhe was a Fool to live ſo Miſerable as ſhe did, and therefore if ſhe was willing, they would ſend ſomething that Night that would Relieve her, and being an ignorant Woman ſhe conſented, and accordingly the ſame Night, two little black Things, almoſt like Moles came into her Bed and ſucked her lower Parts, repeating the ſame for two or three Nights after, till ſhe was almoſt frighted out of her Senſes, inſomuch that ſhe was forced to ſend for Mr. *Danks*, the Miniſter to Pray by her ſeveral Nights, before the ſaid Imps would leave her: She alſo added that ſhe heard the ſaid Priſoners ſay, *that they would be Revenged on Mrs.* Wiſe, *becauſe ſhe would not give them ſome Buttermilk.*

Mrs. *Todd* of *Southwick*, depoſed that *Charles Ireland*, being a Boy of about 12 years

years of Age, was taken with ſtrange Fitts about *Chriſtmas* laſt, continuing ſo by Intervails till twelf Day laſt, at which time he Barked like a Dogg, and when he was Recovered and come to himſelf, he would Diſtictly diſcribe *Elinor Shaw* and *Mary Phillips*, affirming them two to be the Authors of his Miſfortunes, tho he never ſaw them in his Life; ſo that Mrs. *Ireland* the Boy's Mother, was adviſed to Cork up ſome of his Water in a ſtone Bottle, fill'd full of Pins and Needles, and to Bury it under the Fire Hearth, which being done accordingly, the two ſaid Witches could not be quiet, till they came to the ſaid Houſe, and deſired to have the ſaid Bottle taken up, which was not granted, till they had confeſſed the Matter, and promiſed never to do ſo again, but for all this the next Night but one, the ſaid Boy was ſo violently Handled,, that he Dyed in two Hours time; and this Womans Teſtimoney was confirm'd by five or ſix other Evidence, at the ſame time.

The ſaid Witches were Try'd a third time, for Bewitching to Death *Elizabeth Gorham* of *Glapthorn*, on the 10 of *February* laſt, as alſo for Killing ſeveral Horſes, Hogs and Sheep, being the Goods of *Matthew Gorham* Father of the ſaid Child aforeſaid. The Evidence againſt them to prove all this; was *William Boſs*, and *John Southwell*, who Depoſed that being Conſtables of the ſaid Town,

Town, they were Charged with the f
Priſoners in their Cuſtody, who threatni
them with Death, if they did not Confe
and promiſing them to let them go if th
would Confeſs; after ſome little Whinei
and Hanging about one anothers Nec
they both made this Confeſſion.

" That living in one Houſe together the
" contracted with the Devil about a Ye
" ago, to ſell their Souls to him, upon co
" dition, he would enable them to do wh
" Miſchief they deſired, againſt whom th
" pleaſed, either in Body, Goods or Chil
" dren; upon which the ſame Night, th
" had each of them three Imps ſent the
" as they were going to Bed, and at t
" ſame inſtant the Devil appeared to the
" in the ſhape of a tall black Man, an
" told them, that theſe Imps would alwa
" be at their Service, either to kill Ma
" Woman, Child, Hog, Cow, Ship, o
" any other Creature, when they pleas
" to command them, provided they let 'e
" Suck their Fleſh every Night; which be
" ing agree'd to, the Devil came to Bed t
" them both, and had Carnal Knowledg
" of 'em, as if a Man, only with this diffe
" rence inſtead of being Warm, his Em
" braces was very Cold and unpleaſant
" And that the next Morning they ſen
" four of their Imps to Kill two Horſes o
" one *John Webb* of the ſaid Town of *Glas*

" *thorn*

" *thorn*, becauſe he openly ſaid the were
" Witches, and accordingly the Horſes
" were found Dead in a Pond the ſame
" Day; and two days after this they Kill'd
" four great Hoggs after the ſame manner
" belonging to *Matthew Gorham*, becauſe
" he ſaid they both look'd like Witches,
" and not thinking this Revenge ſufficient,
" the next day after they ſent two Imps a
" piece to deſtroy his Child being a little
" Girle of about four Years of Age, which
" was done accordingly in 24 Hours time
" notwithſtanding all the Skill and Endea-
" vour of able Doctors to preſerve it: They
" further confeſſed that if the ſaid Imps
" were not conſtantly imploy'd to do Miſ-
" chief they had not their Healths, but
" when they were imploy'd they were very
" Healthful and Well. They further added,
" that the ſaid Imps did often tell them in
" the Night time, in a hollow whiſpering
" low Voice which they plainly underſtood,
" that they ſhould never feel Hell Torments,
" and that they had Kill'd a Horſe and
" two Cows of one *Widdow Broughton* be-
" cauſe ſhe deny'd them ſome Peaſcods laſt
" year, for which they had alſo ſtruck her
" Daughter with Lameneſs, which would
" never be cured as long as either of them
" Liv'd, and accordingly ſhe has continued
" ſo ever ſince.

The aboveſaid Evidence further depoſed

that

that having thus extorted the said Confession from the Prisoners, they perswaded them to set their Hands to it, which was done accordingly, tho with very much difficulty upon which the said Confession was produced in Court, and the Witnesses to it Examin'd, who all deposed upon Oath that the said Confession was made in their Hearing, and that they saw the said reputed Witches set their Marks to it, in the presence of ten Witnesses.

Upon which the said Prisoners, were desired by the Court to declare, whether they own'd the said Confession and the Marks thereunto Affixed or nor, to which they both answered in the Negative, and then upon made such a Howling, and lamentable Noise as never was heard before, to the amazment of the whole Court, and deny'd every particular that was laid to their Charge but the Court having heard the matter of Fact so positively asserted against them by several Evidences, and above all by their own Confessions, that after having given a Learned Charge the Jury relating to every particular Circumstance they brought them in both Guilty of willful Murther and Witchcraft, and accordingly the next Day the Court was pleased to pronounce sentence of Death upon them, that is to say, *To be Hang'd till they are almost Dead, and then surrounded with Faggots, Pitch and other Combustable matter, which being set on Fire their Bodies are to be consumed to Ashes.*

As soon as they are Executed, I will send you an Account of their Behaviour, and last Dying Speeches.

March 8 1705 Yours *Ralph Davis.*

Licensed according to Order.